

## Claims

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1    1.     A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items within a  
2     main application window, the method comprising:

3                 rendering a list of control objects each of the control objects in the list of control  
4     objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and potentially an additional  
5     properties portion with one or more control;

6                 receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;  
7     and

8                 applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected  
9     items within the main application window.

1    2.     The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

2                 receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a control object, the  
3     control object being located within the rendered list of control objects; and  
4                 modifying one or more control object properties or applying the item in a different  
5     way in response to the properties mouse click upon the properties portion of the control  
6     object.

1           3.     The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a propertied mouse click  
2     comprises:

3           receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of an control object, the  
4     control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5           rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6           receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7           determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item  
8     mouse click; and

9           applying the selected menu item.

1           4.     The method according to claim 3, wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual  
2     menu having menu items determined by a current state of the control object.

1           5.     The method according to claim 2, wherein the list of control objects is rendered  
2     within a scrollable window.

1           6.     The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window containing the  
2     list of control objects is scrollable in vertical direction.

1           7.     The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window is resizable.

1           8.     A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items  
2     within a main application window, the method comprising:

3 rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control  
4 objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one  
5 or more control properties;

6 receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,  
7 the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

8 rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;  
9 receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;  
10 determining an identity of a selected menu item from the menu-item mouse click;  
11 performing an action based upon the selected menu item;  
12 receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;  
13 and  
14 applying the control properties of the control object;  
15 wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual menu having menu items determined by a  
16 current state of the control object;  
17 the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window;  
18 the scrollable window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in vertical  
19 direction; and  
20 the scrollable window is resizable.

1           9.       A computer program data product readable by a computing system and  
2       encoding instructions for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items  
3       within a main application window, the method comprising:

4           rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control  
5       objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one  
6       or more control properties that affect one or more items within the main application window;

7           receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;

8       and

9           applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected  
10      items within the main application window.

1           10.      The computer data product according to claim 9, wherein receiving a  
2       propertied mouse click comprises:

3           receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,  
4       the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5           rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6           receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7           determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item  
8       mouse click; and

9           modifying one or more control object properties based upon the selected menu item.

1           11. The computer data product according to claim 10, wherein the pop-up menu is  
2        a contextual menu having menu items determined by a current state of the first control object  
3        and the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window that may be resized.

1           12. The computer data product according to claim 11, wherein the scrollable  
2        window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in the vertical direction.

1           13. The computer data product according to claim 12, wherein the scrollable  
2        window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a  
3        fly-out input control.

1           14. The computer data product according to claim 13, wherein the computer data  
2        product is a computer readable storage medium.

1           15. A computing system for providing a user interface control to modify  
2        properties of items within a main application window, the computing system comprising:  
3           a main application window containing one or more application items, each application  
4        item having one or more control properties affecting a behavior of the application item;  
5           a gallery control window containing a list of one or more control objects for modifying  
6        control properties of the application items located within the main application window, each  
7        of the control objects in the list of control objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection

8 portion and a properties portion and one or more control properties that affect one or more  
9 items within the main application window;  
10 a control object selection processing module for modifying one or more application  
11 items within the main application window based upon current values of control properties of  
12 a selected control object selected using a mouse click located upon a selection portion of the  
13 selected control object; and  
14 a control object focus processing module for modifying current values of control  
15 properties of a focus control object identified using a mouse click located upon a properties  
16 portion of the focus control object.

1 16. The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object focus  
2 module comprises:  
3 a focus control processing module for processing mouse moves and clicks received  
4 from focus control objects;  
5 a control focus property module for retrieving current values of control properties for  
6 the focus control object and modifying control properties for the focus control object;  
7 a control contextual menu module for providing a contextual list of control properties  
8 to be modified, the contents of the contextual list is determined based upon current values of  
9 control properties for the focus control object; and

10           a control contextual menu option data store for maintaining contextual list data for use  
11          by the control contextual menu module.

1           17.     The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object  
2          selection processing module comprises:

3               a selection control processing module for processing mouse clicks received from  
4          selection control objects;

5               a gallery control window rendering processing module for constructing a visual  
6          representation for the gallery control window;

7               a gallery control scrolling window for controlling the size and position of a visible  
8          portion of the list of one or more control objects;

9               a gallery most-recently used module for maintaining a separate list of recently used  
10       control objects that is concatenated to the list of one or more control object before  
11       presentation to a user by the gallery control window rendering processing module; and

12               a gallery control fly-out module for controlling the size of the gallery control window  
13          as a multi-dimensional collection of control objects.

1           18.     The computing system according to claim 17, wherein the gallery control  
2          window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a  
3          fly-out input control.